

# State of Alaska Department of **Transportation and Public Facilities**

**Frank H. Murkowski**  
Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001



**Mike Barton**  
Commissioner  
**907-465-3900**  
**FAX: 907-586-8365**  
**[www.dot.state.ak.us](http://www.dot.state.ak.us)**

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## **Governor Declares "Weights and Measures Week"**

(Juneau) – As a way of commemorating the importance of consistent measurement standards to commerce and a smooth-functioning economy, Governor Frank H. Murkowski has issued a proclamation naming February 27-March 5, 2005 as "Weights and Measures Week."

The recognition of the need for standard weights and measures for commerce goes back to 1799, when Congress passed its first weights and measures law, Murkowski noted. "The State of Alaska has recognized this need in establishing a Weights and Measures Program which has regularly functioned for the public good," he said. "This program ensures that when you buy a pound of meat, or a gallon of gas, you get what you have paid for."

The Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement in the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has the duty to certify weighing devices, from grocer scales to dump truck scales, certifying pumping devices, such as gas pumps, and enforcing commercial vehicle regulations on Alaska's highways.

"Our mission covers the full spectrum, from making sure the smallest scales are completely accurate, to weighing and inspecting semi-trucks to make sure they are not overweight and breaking up the pavement," said Aves Thompson, division director. "Fair measurements in the marketplace are the foundation of our economy. To ensure that the buyer and seller have confidence in trade measurements is one of the oldest and most important of government programs."

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